

Application Serial No.: 09/965,180
Amendment and Response to January 13, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

REMARKS

Claims 1 -16 and 23 - 26 are in the application. Claims 1, 8, 13, and 23 – 26 were previously presented; claims 17 - 22 are canceled; and claims 2 - 7, 9 – 12, and 14 – 16 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof. Claims 1, 8, 13, and 23 – 26 are the independent claims herein.

No new matter is added to the application as a result of the present Amendment and Response. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 17 - 22 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,974,114, (hereinafter, Blum).

Claims 17 – 22 are canceled as indicated in the listing of the claims submitted herewith. Therefore, the rejection of claims 17 – 22 under 35 USC 102(b) is now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 17 – 22 under 35 USC 102(b).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter. In particular, the Office Action indicated that claims 1 - 16 and 23 - 26 are allowed over the art of record.

Inasmuch as all of the claims pending in the application (claims 1 - 16 and 23 – 26) are allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in a condition for allowance.

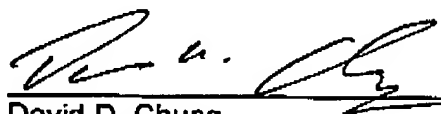
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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (650) 694-5339.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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